

SENATE BILL REPORT

HB 2448

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Government Operations & Elections, February 25, 2008

Title: An act relating to the time frame covered by the twenty-one day preelection campaign finance reports.

Brief Description: Changing the time frame covered by the twenty-one day preelection campaign finance report.

Sponsors: Representatives Hunt, Chandler, Appleton, Armstrong and Haigh; by request of Public Disclosure Commission.

Brief History: Passed House: 2/01/08, 93-0.

Committee Activity: Government Operations & Elections: 2/25/08 [DP].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS & ELECTIONS

Majority Report: Do pass.

Signed by Senators Fairley, Chair; Oemig, Vice Chair; Roach, Ranking Minority Member; Benton, McDermott, Pridemore and Swecker.

Staff: Sharon Swanson (786-7447)

Background: In Washington, the Public Disclosure Commission (PDC) is responsible for receiving, processing, and auditing filings of political campaigns, lobbying, and the financial affairs of elected officials and candidates. The jurisdiction of the PDC includes providing access to those filings, and ensuring compliance with disclosure provisions, contribution limits, campaign practices, and other campaign finance laws. Candidates running for state office must file personal financial affairs' statements and campaign disclosure reports. Local office candidates in jurisdictions of 1,000 or more registered voters as of the last year's general election must file financial affairs' statements. Local office candidates in jurisdictions of 5,000 or more registered voters, or covering an entire county, must also file campaign disclosure reports. A report is due on the twenty-first day and the seventh day immediately preceding the date on which the election is held. In addition, a report is due the tenth day of the first month after the election. Monthly reports are due on the tenth of any other month if the candidate or committee has received a contribution or made an expenditure in the preceding calendar month that exceeds \$200. The report filed 21 days prior to an election must report all contributions received and expenditures made as of the end of the fifth business day before the date of the report.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Summary of Bill: The report filed 21 days prior to an election must report all contributions received and expenditures made as of one business day before the date of the report.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: This bill will promote transparency in campaigns because it requires that six more days of spending activity will be included on the 21-day pre-election C4 reports. The bill could especially help early voters, those who vote shortly after receiving their mail-in ballot, because more information will be on the public record. There is no fiscal impact from the bill.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Vicki Rippie, Public Disclosure Commission.